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MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. General Samuel E. Anderson  
Director, Weapons System Evaluation Group  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: Estimates of Soviet Bloc stocks of Ammunition  
and POL

REFERENCE: Memorandum, dated 20 July 1954, to the Director,  
CIA, from the Acting Executive Secretary, WSEG

1. The referenced memorandum was referred to this Office for action, and I am pleased to forward herewith information in response to the several questions posed on Soviet Bloc POL and ammunition stocks.

2. This Agency accepts the current estimates of Soviet Bloc POL stocks for July 1955 which are believed to have been submitted by the Directorate of Intelligence, U.S. Air Force, in reply to a request similar to the referenced memorandum. The estimated totals for Soviet Bloc POL stocks appear to be reasonable, although we are unaware of source material that would permit reliable or definite estimates of these stocks. It is our belief that the operations of the Soviet Bloc petroleum industry would not permit reduction of POL stocks below a minimum of seven to ten million metric tons, based on the current estimates of stocks on hand in July 1955. This means that the maximum strategic POL stocks available in 1955 would be approximately fourteen million metric tons.


3. Attached as TAB I are our estimates on ammunition stocks in answer to the questions posed in paragraph 3 of the referenced memorandum. Enclosure B to TAB I is a copy of Part IV of a draft report by CIA/HR (MP-114) which provides our analyses of ammunition storage in the several countries of the Soviet Bloc.

4. This Agency does not have information of the type requested in paragraph 5 of the referenced memorandum. We would have to rely

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on the military services for basic data that are needed for such analyses. Time does not permit the initiation of a project on the subject.

5. It has come to my attention that several agencies simultaneously received requests similar to the referenced memorandum. In future cases of this kind, you may wish to consider the use of the Economic Intelligence Committee in order to obtain estimates on Soviet Bloc economic activities reflecting maximum agreement within the economic intelligence community. If so, may I suggest that such requests be directed to me as Chairman of that Committee. I then would make every effort to have the Committee fulfill WBSG requirements of this type as expeditiously as possible.

  
C. H. W. Smith  
Assistant Director  
and  
Chairman,  
Economic Intelligence Committee

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Enclosures:

- TAB I -- Enclosure A, "Bloc Ammunition Inventory, 1 July 1955"
- Enclosure B, "Part IV, Storage of Ammunition in the Soviet Bloc" (draft)
- Enclosure C, Maps of Storage Depots (3)

OAD/RR/OEG:ams  
(16 August 1954)

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